



Mike Kopp
Deputy Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development

Mike Kopp is a veteran of both business and politics having served as a principal and partner for more than 13 years in a Tennessee public affairs firm and having worked in numerous political campaigns in the state and around the country.

He was appointed Assistant Commissioner in February 2003 of a new ECD division called Creative Services to provide in-house communications, strategy and graphic services for ECD and other state agencies. In January 2004 he was appointed Deputy Commissioner overseeing the day-to-day operations and initiatives of the department.

Kopp, who got his start in politics as a Washington, D.C. press aide to President Jimmy Carter's 1980 presidential campaign, served for nearly a decade in Washington, D.C. as press secretary to Al Gore during Gore's tenure as a Congressman and a United States Senator. He has worked as a spokesperson and writer for several presidential campaign efforts, as well as serving as a consultant to more than 130 congressional, state and local candidates in Tennessee and around the country.

He has also worked on a wide range of community, business development and corporate projects, including serving as project lead for the successful marketing effort to sell more than \$10 million in luxury suites and more than \$60 million in PSLs to support construction of the Tennessee Titans Coliseum in Nashville. Additionally, he served as project lead for the successful campaign to secure political and public support of the Memphis Grizzlies NBA franchise. He has also served as marketing consultant to NFL Head Coach Jeff Fisher and as a communications consultant to numerous other former NFL quarterbacks.

Kopp, a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, has also managed marketing and communications initiatives for dozens of business development and venture capital projects for both private and publicly held corporations around the state, including companies in the construction, civil engineering, retail, health care and entertainment industries.

He has worked as a local print, radio and television reporter and producer in the Middle Tennessee area. Kopp has frequently provided political and business commentary to radio and TV programs around the region, and is currently writing a book on grass roots politics.

Kopp and his wife Stacey, a successful small business entrepreneur, reside in Nashville and have two children.

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